

Capturing Character

Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be associated with human behavior.

aloofness (uh LOOF nis) N. state of being removed or distant in feeling (*It was hard to penetrate Christine's aloofness to see what she was really like.*)

bravado (bruH VAH doh) N. a false show of bravery (*Cary's bravado crumbled when the principal threatened to expel him.*)

condescending (KAHN di SEN ding) ADJ. showing a patronizing and superior manner (*The senior spoke in a condescending manner to the freshman.*)

contrite (kuhn TRYT) ADJ. feeling or expressing sorrow or regret for misconduct (*Lisa was contrite for her part in the April Fool's prank that went amiss.*)

convivial (kuhn VIV ee uhl) ADJ. fond of eating, drinking, and good company (*Falstaff is one of the most convivial characters in Shakespeare's plays.*)

deception (di SEP shuhn) N. false or misleading representation (*The magician's show was filled with harmless deception.*)

demeanor (di MEE nur) N. the way a person appears and acts; outward manner (*Do not let Ana's ordinarily quiet demeanor fool you—she'll be the life of the party!*)

effusive (i FYOO siv) ADJ. overflowing; showing too much feeling (*Dan was embarrassed by the woman's effusive thanks when he rescued her cat.*)

fastidious (fa STID ee uhs) ADJ. very particular about personal details; showing great delicacy in taste (*Alice's fastidious cousin had a hard time adjusting to the lack of showers on the camping trip.*)

haughtiness (HAW tee nis) N. offensive pride and disdainfulness (*The crown prince's haughtiness kept him from making any real friends.*)

hypocrite (HIP uh'KRIT) N. insincere person; one who pretends to be virtuous (*Only a hypocrite would attend church on Sunday and cheat on his taxes on Monday.*)

impropriety (IM pruh PRY i tee) N. quality of being unsuitable, wrong, or improper (*Jane's impropriety in attending a party to which she had not been invited shocked Lee.*)

laconic (luh KAHN ik) ADJ. using a minimum of words; brief; terse (*Because of his laconic manner, we could never be quite sure what he was thinking.*)

pathetic (puh THET ik) ADJ. marked by sorrow or melancholy (*The lost puppy gave Beth a pathetic look.*)

piteous (PIT ee uhs) ADJ. moving the heart; deserving of sympathy (*Beth could not resist those piteous brown eyes, so she let the puppy indoors.*)

seclusion (si KLOO zhuhn) N. isolation; a condition of being alone (*Justine went into seclusion after the publicity of the sensational trial.*)

spontaneous (spahn TAY nee uhs) ADJ. done naturally and freely, without prompting or planning (*Spontaneous parties happened every day at the beach.*)

superficial (soo pur FISH uhl) ADJ. shallow or not genuine; only concerned with surface aspects (*I do not have time for superficial friendships.*)

tact (takt) N. ability to say and do the correct thing; skill in dealing with people (*Rachel's tact and intelligence made her the ideal diplomat.*)

urbane (ur BAYN) ADJ. smoothly polite, refined, and elegant (*Barbara felt socially awkward next to her urbane cousin who had spent most of her childhood in exclusive boarding schools.*)